

A NEW CRANFORD

DEDICATED TO OUR DEAR J. B., WHO OF ALL OTHERS BEST
UNDERSTANDS WHAT PROMPTED ITS UNDERTAKING

By ISABEL McISAAC

Benton Harbor, Michigan

PART SECOND

II. TOWN VERSUS COUNTRY

IN the country we have been reading Miss Dock's account of some rural nursing in which an old man made a complete recovery after a serious illness, when no trained nursing was given him.

We are very jealous in the country of our rights and privileges, and we do assure the JOURNAL's readers that all the "modern improvements" of illness are to be found in the country as well as the city. The clinical thermometer is a part of most country-house equipment, and when Mary Jane has a cold we no longer give her a hot bath, a laxative, and a good greasing of her nose and chest, and send her to school next day with an extra flannel petticoat, but we take her temperature, and are so horrified to find it is 100° that we promptly put her to bed and send for the doctor, who prescribes three kinds of medicine and keeps Mary Jane in bed for a week, and poor mother out of bed most of the same length of time, the whole winding up with a good-sized bill, which father finds hard to pay when the crops are poor.

When the new baby comes, one or two trained nurses are a necessity; the mother cannot or does not always nurse him, and then the whole gamut of patent foods and combinations of milk, lime water, barley water, etc., etc., is run, sometimes two or three different kinds in one day; the doctor comes daily, off and on, for months, the whole family dance attendance night and day, the baby is spoiled until no meal or no single hour of peace ever descends upon the household, and at the end of a year the baby has no digestion and is a nervous wreck. We quite pride ourselves upon his condition, and our only real enjoyment in life is in talking over his symptoms.

We no longer have colds; it is either bronchitis or "threatened pneumonia." When we have typhoid, we fuss and fume and fret with doctors and nurses until we die. Any such recovery as Miss Dock records is unknown among us, but our temperature and medication

records are of the most highly approved kind and a great comfort to our surviving relatives.

When one of our neighbors, who is an innocent young thing, has a round-cheeked, hearty baby who sleeps all night and most of the day, spending his spare time in laughing at his pink toes and fingers, we find that the mother comes from the city, and is densely ignorant of germ theories and clinical records, and does only the things her mother told her to, namely, keep the baby warm and dry and full, and that she does n't at all realize the great responsibility of bringing up her child, but actually finds him a great source of amusement and is quite ready to laugh when he does.

The smallest towns are building hospitals where chief surgeons and stiffly starched head nurses strike terror to our souls, making us wish mightily we could be allowed to die in our own beds and not be interesting subjects for medical research, nor have to endure town noises, dust, and food; but this is an age of progress, and such primitive nursing as Miss Dock describes is not to be tolerated when it is possible for us to pay for the blaze of medical glory arising from the modern hospital.

PRACTICAL RESULTS OF STATE REGISTRATION FOR NURSES IN MARYLAND

By SARA E. PARSONS, R.N.

Superintendent of the School for Nurses, Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital,
Baltimore, Md.

THE act requiring the registration of trained nurses in Maryland and fixing a basis for such registration was passed March 25, 1904. It is too early to determine definitely the effects of the law, or to speak authoritatively upon its influence. That there has been a general effect in the way of an attempt to raise the educational standard in schools for nurses is, however, evident.

Some so-called schools have gone out of existence, while others have reorganized so as to come up to the required standard. Different schools have affiliated, and one hospital has opened wards for medical, surgical and obstetrical cases in order that its pupil nurses may get the general training requisite to registration.

About five hundred nurses have registered, and over three hundred of these have joined the state society.

The most striking result of the registration law thus far is the opening of a school for domestic science, starting its curriculum with